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DEFINITIONS OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES,  
WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR CORRECT  
PRONUNCIATION, FOR THE VAR-  
IOUS HIGHER SCHOOLS.

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A SUPPLEMENT TO EVERY SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY.

BY

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THE IBERIAN PENINSULA.\*

SPANISH: *sierra*=range of mountains, or *mountains*, *mónte*=*mountain*;—*Iago*=*Jacob*, James, *Andér* (for *Andrés*)=*Andrew*;—*mayór*=*greater*, *menór*=*smaller*, *serrāto*=*jagged*, or *toothed*, *nevādo*=(covered with snow), *snowy*, *maladēto* (Aragonese), or *maldīto* (fem. *maldīta*)=*cursed* (cursed by God), *san*, *sant*=*saint*, holy.

THE BALEARIC ISLANDS are distinguished after their size; MAJORCA (Sp. *Mallorca*) means THE GREATER ISLAND, and MINORCA (Sp. *Menorca*)=THE SMALLER ISLAND.—SIERRA NEVADA=SNOWY MOUNTAINS.—MONT-SERRAT=THE JAGGED MOUNTAIN (so called from its appearance);—MALADETA=THE CURSED *group of mountains* (so named on account of its wildness).

SANTIAGO=SAINT JAMES (so called in honor of the Apostle James, patron of Spain);—SANTANDER=SAINT ANDREW.

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\* This portion of Dr. Ganzenmüller's MS. was received too late for the BULLETIN of June 30, in which it should have preceded the remarks on France.

PORTUGUESE : *serra*=mountains, *cabo*=cape ; *pôrto*=harbor ; — *açôr*=hawk ; *rôca*=rock ; — *estrella*=star ; *são*=saint, holy ; *o*=the (masc. sing.) ; — *de*=of, *da*=of the (fem.).

The AZORES=ISLANDS OF HAWKS (so called from the great number of hawks found there).—CABO DA ROCA=THE ROCKY CAPE (the steep western point of Europe ; —CABO SÃO VICENTE=CAPE OF SAINT VINCENT, —SERRA D'ESTRELLA=MOUNTAINS OF THE STAR, or STAR RANGE.

PORTO=HARBOR (also named *Oporto*=the harbor).

GREEK : *πόλις*=city, *Πομπήιος*=Pompey, *πίτυς*=pine ; — *ἑσπέρα*=(evening), west ; — *βάλλειν*=to sling.

The PITYUSES (in Greek *Πιτυούσσαι*)=ISLANDS OF PINES ; —BALEARIC ISLANDS=ISLANDS OF SLINGERS (the Balearian slingers are celebrated in the military annals of antiquity).—HESPERIA (as the Iberian Peninsula was named by the ancient Greeks)=THE WESTERN COUNTRY, —*Pompeiopolis* (in Biscayan *Pomp-aelo*), now PAMPLUNA=CITY OF POMPEY (its reputed founder).

LATIN : *terra*=(earth), land, *pörtus*=harbor ; —*Cæsar*=emperor ; —*victōria*=victory, *pax*=peace (rest), *finis*=end ; —*nōvus* (fem. *nōva*)=new.

CAPE FINISTERRE (*finis terræ*)=CAPE "LANDSEND." —*Portus Cale*, harbor of Cale, was the original name of the modern Porto, and from these two words is derived the Latin PORTUCALIA=COUNTRY ABOUT THE HARBOR OF CALE, now PORTUGAL ; —*Pax Augusta*, now (in a Spanish corruption) BADAJOZ=REST OF AUGUSTUS (the Roman Emperor) ; —*Cæsarea Augusta*, now ZARAGOZA=CITY OF THE EMPEROR AUGUSTUS ; —*Victoria*, now VITORIA=CITY OF VICTORY (battle A. D. 1813) ; —*Carthago nova*, now CARTAGENA=NEW CARTHAGE.

CELTIC: *pyra*, hence the PYRENEES=MOUNTAINS;—*dūr*, hence the DUERO RIVER.

BISCAYAN: From *ibárra* or *the great river* was derived the Latin *Ibērus*, the modern EBRO=STREAM; and from *ura*=*water*, and *asta*=*rock* is formed the compound ASTURIA=THE ROCKY COUNTRY ON THE WATER, or on the sea.

PHŒNICIAN: The ancient *Ibūsim*, the later *Ebūsus*, the modern IVIZA is synonymous with the Greek *Πινούσσα*, and means THE ISLAND OF PINES.—*Gadir*, later *Gades*, now CADIZ=(hedge), CASTLE (a Phœnician settlement).

ARABIAN: *jesireh*=(island, or also) *peninsula*;—*gēbel*=*mountain*, *wādi*=*river*; *gharb*=*west*;—*ābiad*=*white*, *kēbir*=*great*;—*al*=*the*.

From *Gebel al-Tarik* was derived GIBRALTAR=MOUNTAIN OF TARIK (a Moorish general, who conquered this place, A. D. 712).—The *Bætis*, etc., see . . . p. 213.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, WEST INDIES.\*

SPANISH: *isla*=*island*, *cósta*=*coast* (coast region), *cābo*=*cape*, *punta*=*point of land*, *tierra*=*land*, (region), *istmo*=*isthmus*, *sierra*=*mountains*, *cordillera*=*a chain*, or *a range of mountains*, *cérro*=*a ridge of mountain*, *nevādo*=*snowy mountain*, *pico*=*peak*; *riō*=*river*, *desaguadero*=*a drain*; *val*=*valley*, *angostura*=*narrows*, *páramo*=*desert highland*; *ciudad*=*city*, *villa*=*town*, *city*; *puerto* (in Portuguese *pórt*o),=port, harbor,—*nórte*=*north*, *ecüádór*=*equator*; *diós*=*God*, *espíritu*=*spirit* or *ghost*, *trinidad*=*trinity*, *salvador*=*saviour*;

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\* Instructions for pronunciation of Spanish and Portuguese words and names have been given on pp. 211–213.

*príncipe*=*prince*; *Andér* (Andrés),=*Andrew*, *Iago*=*James*, *José*=*Joseph*, *Júdn*=*John*; *mádre*=*mother*; *Lúcia*=*Lucy*; *gallina*=*fowl*, *galápago*=*turtle*, *anguilla*=*eel*; *pino*=*pine*, *pásto* (and *pásco*)=*pasturage*; *argentino*=(adj.) *silver*, *plāta*=*silver*, *esmeralda*=*emerald*, *arēna*=*sand*; *agüās*=*waters*; *pāta*=*paw*, or *large foot*, *cabéllo*=*hair*; *cruz*=*cross* (crucifix), *pilar*=*pillar*;—*pāso*=*passage*, *parāiso*=*paradise*, *aire* (plur. *aires* or *áyres*)=*air*, *fūēgo*=*fire*;—*dominica*=*Sunday*, *domingo*=*Sunday*, *Lord's Day*, *asúncion*=*assumption*, *paz*=*peace*;—*grācias*=*thanks*, *grānde*=*great*, *mayór*=*greater*, *blānco*=*white*, *colorādo*=*red* (or *colored*), *vermejo*=*red*, *nēgro*=*black*, *caliēnte*=*hot* (ardent), *templāda*=*temperate*, *fríō*=*cold*, *nevādo* (fem. *nevāda*)=*snow covered*, *snowy*, *rápido*=*rapid*, *salādo*=(salty), *brackish*, *dúlce*=*sweet*, *fresh* (water);—*būēno*=*good*, *vēro*=*true*, *rico*=*rich*, *rēal*=*royal*, *san*, *sant* (fem. *santa*)=*saint* (holy);—*el* (plur. *los*)=*the* (masc.) *la*=*the* (fem.);—*de*=*of* (gen., with the masc. article *del*=*of the*); *a*=*to* (dat).

TIERRA DEL FUEGO=LAND OF FIRE (so named by Magellan on account of *great fires* which he saw along the coast and which he supposed to be the eruption of volcanoes);—TRINIDAD (*island*) was discovered by Columbus, on the 31st of July, 1498, and received its name in honor of *the Holy TRINITY*;—SAN SALVADOR (*island, country and city*)=THE HOLY SAVIOUR;—SANTA LUCIA=SAINT LUCY (discovered by Columbus, on the 13th of December, 1498, the day of Santa Lucia);—DOMINICA (*island*)=SUNDAY (discovered by Columbus on the 3d of November, 1493, a Sunday, in ecclesiastical Spanish *dominica*, Lord's Day);—SANTO DOMINGO (*island, state,*

and *city*)=THE HOLY SUNDAY, or *holy Sabbath*);—ISLAS DE LOS GALÁPAGOS=ISLANDS OF TURTLES;—ISLA DE PINOS=ISLAND OF PINES;—ANGUILLA=EEL—(*island*); PUERTO RICO, in Portuguese *Porto Rico* (*island and city*)=THE RICH HARBOR.—CABO DE LAS GALLINAS=CAPE OF FOWLS;—CABO DE LA SANTA CRUZ=CAPE HOLY CROSS:—CABO DEL PILAR=CAPE OF PILLARS (or *columns*);—CABO DE GRACIAS A DIOS=CAPE THANKS TO GOD!—PUNTA DE ARENAS=SANDY CAPE (or *sandy point of land*).—THE CORDILLERAS=THE CHAINS OF MOUNTAINS; “*Andes*,” from Peruvian “*anti*,” signifies *copper*, or *metal* in general, and *the* CORDILLERAS DE LOS ANDES, therefore, means *the* CHAINS OF THE METAL or *copper mountains*;—CORDILLERA REAL=THE ROYAL CORDILLERA;—SIERRA MADRE=MOTHER MOUNTAINS (so called in distinction from the chains running out from this range of mountains);—SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA=THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS OF SAINT MARTHA;—NEVADO DE SORATA=THE SNOWY PEAK OF SORATA;—PICO DE ORIZABA=PEAK OF ORIZABA (so the *Citlaltépetl* is named by the Spaniards);—PICO MAYOR=THE GREATER PEAK (*i. e.* the *Popocatepetl*);—PÁRAMOS=DESERT HIGHLANDS (in the Cordilleras);—RIO COLORADO=RED RIVER;—RIO VERMEJO=RED RIVER;—RIO NEGRO=BLACK RIVER;—RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE=GREAT RIVER OF THE NORTH;—RIO RAPIDO=THE RAPID RIVER, also named RIO DE SANTANDER=RIVER OF ST. ANDREW (in Mexico);—(*Río de*) LA PLATA=(*river, or stream of*) SILVER (so called by Diego Garcia, in 1527, from the silver brought to him by the natives);—RIO DE SAN JUAN=RIVER OF ST. JOHN;—RIO SALADO=THE BRACKISH RIVER: RIO DULCE (in Argentina and Guatemala)=THE RIVER OF

FRESH WATER ;—DESAGUADERO=A DRAIN (*i. e.* from LAKE TITICACA to LAKE PANSÁ).

In *Mexico* and *Central America* the belts of land are distinguished as : TIERRAS CALIENTES=THE HOT REGIONS (on the coast), TIERRAS TEMPLADAS=THE TEMPERATE REGIONS, and TIERRAS FRIAS=THE COLD REGIONS (*i. e.* the highland) ;—COSTA RICA=RICH COAST ; EL ISTMO=THE ISTHMUS (of Panama) ;—ECUADOR=EQUATOR (so named from its position under the equatorial line) ;—ARGENTINA=LAND OF SILVER ;—PATAGONIA=LAND OF THE MEN WITH LARGE FEET (so called by the discoverer Magellan and his companions, from the large-footed men (*Pata-gones*) found there (see pp. 370–371, JOURNAL A. G. S., 1887) ;—BOLIVIA=LAND OF BOLIVAR, liberator of the South American States from Spanish dominion ;—COLOMBIA=LAND OF COLUMBUS.

ANGOSTURA=(*city on the*) NARROWS (*of the Orinoco*) ; it is also named CIUDAD BOLIVAR=CITY OF BOLIVAR ;—VILLA DE MINAS=CITY OF MINES (in Uruguay) ;—CIUDAD REAL=ROYAL CITY (in Mexico) ;—PUERTO PRINCIPE=HARBOR (OF THE) PRINCE ;—PUERTO CABELLO=HARBOR OF HAIRS ;—ESMERALDA=EMERALD ;—AGUAS CALIENTES=HOT WATERS or *springs* (in Mexico) ;—EL PASO (*del Norte*)=THE (*northern*) PASSAGE (a frontier-town of Mexico) ;—PASTO, and PASCO=(*place of*) PASTURAGE ; hence CERRO (*ridge of mountain*) DE PASTO, and CERRO DE PASCO ;—VALPARAISO=VALLEY OF PARADISE ; VERA CRUZ=THE TRUE CROSS ;—SANTA FÉ=THE HOLY FAITH ; —ASUNCION=(*the city of*) ASSUMPTION ; LA PAZ=THE PEACE (or *place of peace*) in Bolivia and Lower California ; —BUENOS AYRES=GOOD AIR.—ESPIRITU SANTO=(*city of the*) HOLY GHOST (on the island of Cuba) ;—SANTIAGO

=ST. JAMES;—SAN JOSE=ST. JOSEPH;—SAN JUAN=ST. JOHN.

PORTUGUESE : *bahia*=bay, *cabo*=cape, *recife*=reef, *serra*=mountains, *cordilheira*=a chain of mountains, *riô*=river (water), *bárrea*=a narrow entrance;—*cidade*=city, *villa*=(village), town, city; *pôrto*=harbor; o *santo* (plur. *os santos*)=the saint;—*Luis*=Lewis, *Pédro*=Peter;—*Roque* (Rôke)=Rochus;—*madêiro*=wood; *sêlva*=forest; *mátto*=copsewood, bushes;—*mina* (plur. *minas*)=mine; *ouro*=gold;—*espinhaço*=(the spine, and) a ridge of mountain; *Janêiro*=January;—*nôrte*=north, *sul*=south, *brânco*=white, *nêgro*=black, *prêto*=black, *grôsso*=large, *grande*=great, *bêllo* (fem. *bêlla*)=beautiful, *segûro*=secure, *alêgre*=(vivid), frequented, *gerál* (plur. *gerdês*)=general; *diamantino* (fem. *diamantina*)=rich in diamonds; *são*=saint, holy;—*tôdo* (plur. *tôdos*)=all; o (plur. *os*)=the (masc.), *de*=of (genit., with the masc. article : *do*=of the).

BAHIA DE TODOS OS SANTOS=BAY OF ALL THE SAINTS (discovered on *All Saints' Day*, in 1503).—CABO BRANCO=THE WHITE CAPE;—CABO DE SAN ROQUE=CAPE OF ST. ROCHUS (so named because it was discovered on the 16th of August, 1502, the day of *St. Rochus*);—SERRA DO ESPINHAÇO=THE RIDGE OF MOUNTAINS;—CORDILHEIRA GRANDE=THE GREAT CORDILHEIRA (*the great chain of mountains*);—CORDILHEIRA GERAL=THE GENERAL CORDILHEIRA.—RIO BRANCO=THE WHITE RIVER, a tributary of the RIO NEGRO=THE BLACK RIVER;—RIO GRANDE DO SUL=GREAT RIVER OF THE SOUTH (River and Province in Southern Brazil, so called in distinction from the RIO GRANDE DO NORTE=GREAT RIVER OF THE NORTH;—MADEIRA=WOOD RIVER (it



carries along great tree-trunks in times of floods);—SELVAS=FORESTS;—MATTO GROSSO=THICK COPSE WOOD;—MINAS GERAES=GENERAL MINES.

BAHIA (city)=BAY;—(*Cidade de*) RECIFE (*de Pernambuco*)=(*city on the*) REEF (*of Pernambuco*);—VILLA BELLA=THE BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE, or *city*;—PORTO SEGURO=THE SECURE HARBOR;—PORTO ALEGRE=THE FREQUENTED HARBOR;—RIO DE JANEIRO=WATER OF JANUARIUS (it is situated on an arm of the sea named “*Janeiro*,” probably from its discovery by Solis on the feast-day of *Januarius*, January 1, 1501);—BARRA DO RIO NEGRO=THE NARROW ENTRANCE INTO THE BLACK RIVER;—OURO PRETO=THE BLACK GOLD;—DIAMANTINO (in Matto Grosso)=and DIAMANTINA (in Minas Geraes)=RICH IN DIAMONDS;—SÃO LUIS=SAINT LEWIS;—SÃO PAULO=SAINT PAUL; SÃO PEDRO (*do Rio Grande*)=SAINT PETER (*on the great river*).

\* The settlement of BLUMENAU in Brazil was founded by the German physician, DR. BLUMENAU, of Brunswick, in 1850.

FRENCH: *port*=harbor, *terre* (terr)=land, *prince* (pröss)=prince;—*Pierre* (Pierr)=Peter, *Thomé* (Tomē)=Thomas;—*croix* (kröä)=cross:—*grand* (grâ)=great, *basse* (bass)=low; *St.*, *saint* (sä)=saint, holy;—*au* (ô)=to the (dat).

ST. CROIX (island, and city)=HOLY CROSS;—ST. THOMÉ=SAINT THOMAS.—The island of *Guadeloupe* is divided into GRANDE TERRE=THE GREAT LAND, and BASSE TERRE=THE LOWER LAND;—PORT AU PRINCE=HARBOR OF THE PRINCE;—ST. PIERRE=SAINT PETER (on the island of *Guadeloupe*).

\* Definitions of some *Mexican geographical names*

have been given on p. 371, JOURNAL, A. G. S., 1887.

In the *language of the natives of South America* ORINOCO means a STREAM, *para*, hence PARANÁ=RIVER and PARAGUAY=RIVER OF PARROTS; ÁRAU=*free*, and, therefore, ARAUCANIANS (in Chile)=THE FREE MEN;—PETCHERAIS=FRIENDS (so named from their addressing the strangers by the word "*petcherais*").

The STAITS OF MAGELLAN, so called because discovered and first navigated by *Magalhães*, or MAGELLAN (Spanish), a Portuguese navigator in the Spanish service, in the first voyage round the world (1519–20).—The name of ANTILLES originated from a *mythological island*, ANTILLA, which the first discoverers thought to have found in the island of Hayti.—The VIRGIN ISLANDS were discovered by Columbus, in 1494, and so called by him (in honor of the "*eleven thousand VIRGINS*").—The FALKLAND ISLANDS were first named after the *English Lord FALKLAND*, but, afterwards, *Isles Malouines* (by French navigators of *St. Malo*); hence in English MALOUINE ISLANDS.—JUAN FERNANDEZ (island) was discovered by a navigator of the same name, in 1576.—CAPE HORN (*Hoorn*) was so called by the Dutch discover, Schouten, after his native town, the *city of HOORN*, in Holland; and ASPINWALL (Colon) took its name from ASPINWALL, *the builder of the railway over the isthmus of Panama*.

\*After European cities, *Cordoba* (in the Argentine Republic), *Granada*, and *Leon* (in Nicaragua), *Nassau* (on the island of New Providence), *Valencia* (in Venezuela) and many others.